

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO STATE WASHDC 8897

INFO AMEMBASSYTAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JA, CH, US

SUBJECT: PRC FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY
AND JAPANESE MILITARISM

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO DECEMBER 17 MAINICHI SHIMBUN, PRC FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD JAPANESE DIET MISSION OCTOBER 12 THAT HE DID NOT THINK JAPANESE MILITARISM WOULD BE REVIVED AND, THAT, TO PROTECT JAPAN FROM SOVIET THREAT, MAINTENANCE OF MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY WAS QUITE NATURAL. STATEMENTS, REPORTED BY DSP DIET MEMBER WHO WAS PRESENT, UNDERSCORE PRC PERCEPTION THAT IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH US AND JAPAN INVOLVE ACCOMMODATION ON SECURITY ISSUE AND PLACE JAPANESE MST CRITICS IN EMBARRASSING POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. DECEMBER 17 MAINICHI SHIMBUN CARRIED REPORT BUILT AROUND ARTICLE BY DSP DIET MEMBER EIICHI NAGASUE WHICH APPEARED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"KYOTO MINSHA" DSP PREFECTURAL PARTY ORGAN.

NAGASUE ARTICLE DESCRIBED OCTOBER 12 MEETING OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE DELEGATION (WHICH INCLUDED NAGASUE) WITH PRC FOREIGN MINISTER CHI PENG-FEI IN PEKING. AS RECOUNTED BY NAGASUE, CHI, RESPONDING TO QUESTION FROM DELEGATION LEADER KATSUSHI FUJII (LDP), SAID, "WE ARE AWARE THAT THERE ARE VARIOUS OPINIONS IN JAPAN CONCERNING JAPAN-US TREATY. WE TOO PREVIOUSLY OPPOSED TREATY. HOWEVER, CONDITIONS HAVE NOW CHANGED. THAT IS BECAUSE TAIWAN ARTICLE OF TREATY WAS INVALIDATED BY LAST YEAR'S JOINT JAPAN-CHINA DECLARATION. WITHOUT SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITY WHICH PROTECTS NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE CANNOT BE PRESERVED. WE OPPOSE JAPANESE MILITARISM BUT DO NOT BELIEVE JAPAN WILL REVIVE MILITARISM."

2. NAGASUE REPORTS CHI WENT ON TO SAY, "I THINK JAPAN FEELS THREATENED BY SOVIET UNION; CHINA ALSO FEELS SUCH THREAT. AS LONG AS JAPAN HAS NOT BUILT UP SUFFICIENT SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITY TO PROTECT AGAINST SOVIET THREAT, I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT MAINTENANCE OF JAPAN-US SECURITY TREATY IS NATURAL. I THINK IT IS DESIRABLE FOR JAPAN TO FREE ITSELF FROM AMERICAN PROTECTION AND POSSESS INDEPENDENT SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITY; HOWEVER, AT PRESENT, JAPAN REMAINS UNDER PROTECTION OF AMERICAN UMBRELLA. TO PRECIPITOUSLY ABROGATE TREATY AT THIS TIME IS NOT REALISTIC."

3. ACCORDING TO MAINICHI ARTICLE, HARUO OKADA, JSP DELEGATE ALSO PRESENT AT CHI MEETING, HAS CHARGED THAT NAGASUE REPORT MARRED BY "SUBJECTIVE JUDGEMENTS". MISSION LEADER FUJII, HOWEVER, QUOTED SAYING THAT, ACCORDING TO HIS OWN NOTES, NAGASUE ARTICLE IS GENERALLY ACCURATE.

4. COMMENT: NAGASUE'S ACCOUNT SEEMS CREDIBLE. SIMILAR LINE WAS REPORTEDLY TAKEN BY CHINA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSN VICE PRESIDENT IN MEETING WITH JAPANESE UNIONISTS AT ABOUT SAME TIME CHI MET DIET GROUP (REFTEL). CHI'S COMMENTS, IF ACCURATELY REPORTED, APPEAR TO UNDERSCORE CHINESE PERCEPTION THAT ROUTE TO IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH BOTH US AND JAPAN INVOLVES ACCOMMODATING POSTURE ON JAPANESE SECURITY ISSUE.

5. REPORTED CHINESE ATTITUDE ON SECURITY TREATY AND LACK OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPREHENSION OVER REVIVAL OF JAPANESE MILITARISM PLACES OPPOSITION PARTIES AND OTHER CRITICS OF TREATY AND JAPANESE DEFENSE BUILDUP IN EMBARRASSING POSITION SINCE OPPOSITION HAS LONG TOUTED LINE THAT MST AND JSDF ARE OBSTACLES TO FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PRC. END COMMENT. SHOESMITH

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